

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A portable transaction device comprising:
transaction apparatus operative to participate in a monetary
transaction;

authorization apparatus operative to authorize the transaction
apparatus to operate based on stored authorization parameters, the stored
authorization parameters comprising at least one of the following:

an identity of a user;

a time period; and

a distance; and

control apparatus operative to store the stored authorization
parameters based on user input.

2. A portable transaction device according to claim 1 and also
comprising:

authentication apparatus comprising:

storage apparatus operative to store an identity of at least one

authentic authorization control user; and

user determination apparatus operative to determine whether
a user of the portable transaction device is an authentic authorization control user,
based, at least in part, on the identity of at least one authorization control user
stored in the storage apparatus, and

wherein the control apparatus is operative to store the stored
authorization parameters based on a determination by the authentication apparatus
that the user is an authentic authorization control user.

3. A portable transaction device according to claim 2 and wherein the
user determination apparatus comprises an input device operative to receive a
user-identifying input.

4. A portable transaction device according to claim 3 and wherein the input device comprises a password input device operative to receive a supplied password.

5. A portable transaction device according to claim 4 and wherein the input device comprises a keypad.

6. A portable transaction device according to claim 4 and wherein the input device comprises a voice recognition input device.

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7. A portable transaction device according to claim 3 and wherein the input device comprises a biometric input device.

8. A portable transaction device according to claim 7 and wherein the biometric input device comprises a fingerprint input device.

9. A portable transaction device according to claim 2 and wherein the authentication apparatus also comprises:

authorization identity receiving apparatus operative to receive a signal indicating that a new user is to be considered an authentic authorization control user and to store an identity of the new authorization control user in the storage apparatus.

10. A portable transaction device according to claim 2 and wherein the storage control apparatus has a maximum storage capacity sufficient to store an identity of at most one authentic authorization control user.

11. A portable transaction device according to claim 2 and wherein the storage control apparatus is operative to store an identity of at most one authentic authorization control user, and

the authentication apparatus also comprises:

authorization identity receiving apparatus operative to receive a signal indicating that a new user is to be considered an authentic authorization control user and to store an identity of the new authorization control user in the storage apparatus.

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12. A portable transaction device according to claim 1 and wherein the time period comprises a time period during which a user is authorized to use the portable transaction device.

13. A portable transaction device according to claim 1 and wherein the identity of a user comprises an identity of a user who is authorized to use the portable transaction device.

14. A portable transaction device according to claim 1 and also comprising:

proximity determination apparatus operative to determine a distance between the portable transaction device and a predetermined location, and

wherein the distance comprises a maximum distance from the predetermined location at which the portable transaction device is authorized to be used.

15. A portable element comprising:

authorization apparatus operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with at least one of the following authorization parameters:

at least one defined period of time;
a defined distance from a specified location;
at least one defined type of transaction;
at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and

at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable element.

16. A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with a predefined function of at least two of the authorization parameters.

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17. A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit is a function of at least one of the following:

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an elapsed time since a predetermined time;

a fixed time;

a distance from a specified location;

a type of transaction; and

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an identity of an authorized person authorized to use the portable element.

18. A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the at least one authorized person comprises a plurality of authorized persons each associated with an authorization profile, and

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the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element by each of the plurality of authorized persons in accordance with the authorization profile.

19. A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the at least one authorized person comprises exactly one authorized person associated with an authorization profile, and

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the authorization apparatus is operative to authorize use of the portable element by the one authorized person in accordance with the authorization profile.

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20. A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the portable element comprises a control device for controlling electronic equipment.

21. A portable element according to claim 20 and wherein the control device comprises a television remote control device.

22. A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the predetermined criterion comprises a predetermined transaction limit.

23. A portable element according to claim 22 and wherein the predetermined transaction limit comprises a predetermined monetary limit.

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24. A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the authorization parameters are based, at least in part, on authorization parameter defining information, and also comprising:

authorization input apparatus operative to receive the authorization parameter defining information.

25. A portable element according to claim 24 and wherein the authorization input apparatus comprises input authentication apparatus operative to authenticate the received authorization parameter defining information and to reject non-authentic received information.

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26. A method for use with a portable transaction device, the method comprising:

providing transaction apparatus operative to participate in a monetary transaction;

authorizing the transaction apparatus to operate based on stored authorization parameters, the stored authorization parameters comprising at least one of the following:

an identity of a user;

a time period; and

a distance; and

storing the stored authorization parameters based on user input.

27. A method for use with a portable element, the method comprising:
providing a portable element;
authorizing use of the portable element in accordance with at least
5 one of the following authorization parameters:
at least one defined period of time;
a defined distance from a specified location;
at least one defined type of transaction;
at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined
10 criterion; and
at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable
element.

Respectfully submitted,

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